



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



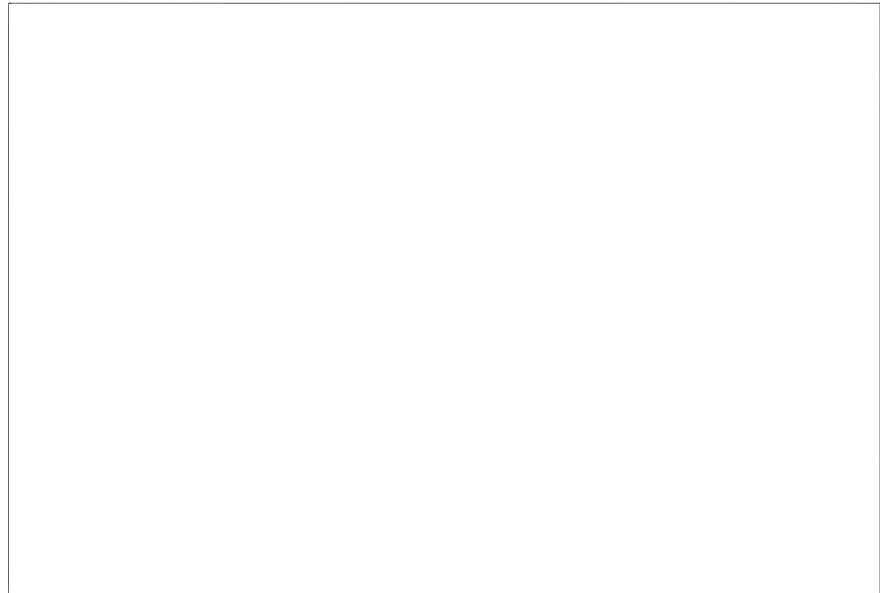
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15 SEPTEMBER 1966

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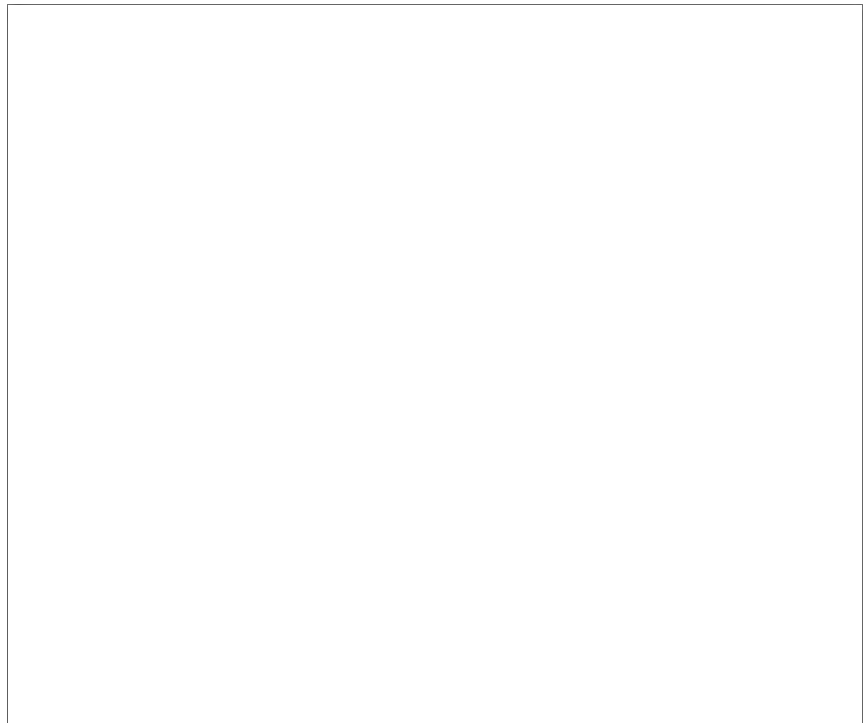
DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam



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2. Philippines



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3. Soviet Union

The Soviets have again shown a willingness to cooperate with the US in limited bilateral agreements in areas unrelated to Vietnam.

Yesterday Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler that he might be ready to sign a US-Soviet civil air transport agreement while in New York next week.

Earlier this week, the Soviets transmitted to the US, for the first time, cloud pictures taken by their meteorological satellite Cosmos 122. Although the original resolution of the pictures was probably good, they were not too clear after transmission to the US. They nevertheless meet the terms of the 1962 US-USSR agreement to exchange satellite weather data.

4. Rhodesia

The Commonwealth Conference's communiqué on Rhodesia appears to give Wilson another breathing spell--until Christmas.

The communiqué falls far short of African demands, however, and does not gloss over the serious differences between London and the Africans. The Africans still expect Smith to be in business at Christmas and will continue preparations to take the case to the UN.

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6. South Vietnam

Tam Chau, who withdrew to the sidelines during the heat of the controversy between the Buddhists and the government, now intends to reassert his authority within the Buddhist movement. He has told our Saigon embassy he is "extremely happy" over the outcome of the election. He said he had always favored Buddhist participation in the election and confirmed that he made an election day statement urging Buddhists to vote.

Tam Chau has been a moderating and constructive influence in the Buddhist hierarchy. The failure of extremist Buddhists to sabotage the election should help his bid for leadership. In the past, however, his militant opponents have often been able to undercut him.

7. Thailand

Foreign Minister Thanat is pursuing his efforts to obtain a mutual security treaty with the US. He has now sent Ambassador Martin a formal note "inviting" the US to begin discussions on the matter.

Thanat claims to have cabinet authorization to press his scheme. The ambassador's talks with other ministers, however, suggest that Thanat may be proceeding largely on his own, gambling that the cabinet will take the easy way out and agree to whatever he accomplishes.

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